

part of the State in which they are situated increases, and as capital and labor are applied to fit them for cultivation. I am sustained in this view of the unprofitable character of these lands by the experience of preceding administrations. But they ought not to be sacrificed. The State can afford to hold them, and, after a while, they will be sought, purchased and occupied, and thus add to the general wealth.

The reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of the Superintendent of Public Works, of the Auditor, of the Secretary of State, of the Attorney General, of the Principals of the two Asylums, and of the Penitentiary Commissioners, will afford valuable information for your honorable body.

The revenue for the support of public schools, for the school year commencing October 1st, 1869, and closing September 30, 1870, was, from all sources, \$152,281.82. The amount paid during the year for wages of teachers was \$42,862.40. The amount actually paid into the Treasury for schools for the year ending September 30, 1871, is \$90,407.80. There have been schools during the past year in seventy-four of the ninety counties. There are about eight hundred Townships in the State, and schools have been kept in three hundred and fifteen of these, making about twelve hundred and fifty schools. It is estimated that about forty-five thousand children have attended these schools. Of these there were white, thirty-two thousand six hundred and fifty, and colored, twelve thousand three hundred and fifty. The number of school-houses reported is seven hundred and nine, and the average monthly pay of teachers is twenty-four dollars.

Up to the commencement of the late war, North Carolina had the best system of common schools of any State south of the Potomac. In former days the leading public men of all parties vied with each other in caring for and promoting the education of all the children. Would that those days would return! Our present system is in its infancy, is poorly endowed, and has to contend with many difficulties. We should not despond in the prosecution of this good work. Every man and woman